

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115215  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115215

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 3797 ACTION SECSTATE PARIS USMISSION NATO  
MAY 16.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3797

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS/MASS  
DESTRUCTION WEAPONS AND ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS: MAY 9-13, 1977

REF: A. GENEVA 3736; B. USNATO 03309

1. CCD WESTERN GROUP AND NON-CCD ALLIES WERE BRIEFED SEPARATELY  
AND PROVIDED ADVANCE COPY OF COMMUNIQUE ON 16 MAY.

2. TEXT OF BRIEFING NOTES:

BEGIN TEXT

TALKING POINTS ON US-SOVIET WORKING GROUP SESSIONS,  
GENEVA, MAY 9 - 13, 1977

- DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 9-13, THE US AND USSR HELD BILATERAL  
CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA CONCERNING PROHIBITION OF NEW MASS  
DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW), PARTICULARLY RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS,  
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AND OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW).

- THE DISCUSSION WERE HELD PURSUANT TO THE AGREEMENT REACHED  
IN LATE MARCH DURING SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE'S VISIT TO  
MOSCOW TO ESTABLISH JOINT WORKING GROUPS IN SEVERAL AREAS.

- A COMMUNIQUE WILL BE RELEASED FOR USE TUESDAY, MAY 17.

AN ADVANCE COPY WILL BE PROVIDED YOU HERE.

- THE CONSULTATIONS WERE HELD ON VERY SHORT NOTICE BECAUSE

OF APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT TIMING. THIS IS REASON THAT OUR ALLIES WERE NOT GIVEN MORE ADVANCE NOTICE.

- ALTOGETHER, FOUR SESSIONS WERE HELD, ON OF THEM ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

- THE FOCUS OF THE MDW DISCUSSIONS WAS ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW), ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT SOVIET OBJECTIVE CONTINUES TO BE PROHIBITION OF NEW MDW IN GENERAL THROUGH NEGOTIATION OF A CONVENTION IN THE CCD. ON THIS POINT THE US REPRESENTATIVE REITERATED THE WELL-KNOWN US PREFERENCE FOR CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH.

- ON RW, THE US PRESENTATION WAS BASED ON THE 1976 US STATEMENT AT THE UNGA WHICH SUGGESTED AN AGREEMENT PROHIBITING USE OF RADIOLOGICAL MATERIALS AS WEAPONS AND, PERHAPS, SUPPLEMENTING PHYSICAL PROTECTION MEASURES SO AS TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED REMOVAL OF RADIOLOGICAL MATERIAL. NO NEW PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED.

- THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS EMPOWER HIM TO WORK OUT A SEPARATE AGREEMENT ON RW. HE TOOK THE POSITION THAT A RW AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT ONLY BAN USE OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS, BUT ALSO THEIR DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING.

-. THE QUESTION OF LATER BILATERAL DISCUSSION OF RW DURING THE CCD SUMMER SESSION WAS DISCUSSED WITHOUT A CONCLUSION BEING REACHED.

-. JUDGING FROM THE DISCUSSIONS, THE SOVIET EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A VAGUE, GENERAL BAN ON NEW MDW, WHILE NOT YET MORIBUND, IS DECLINING IN VIGOR.

- ONE SHORT SESSION WAS HELD ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC ISSUES.

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- THE SOVIET SIDE REITERATED ITS PREPARAEDNESS TO BEGIN WORK ON THE TEXT OF A JOINT INITIATIVE; THE US SIDE STATED THAT UNTIL THE INTERNAL US REVIEW OF CW POLICY IS COMPLETED, THE US WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON A TEXT.

- THE US SIDE INDICATED ITS EXPECTATION THAT THE POLICY REVIEW WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND THAT THE US SIDE WILL BE ABLE TO PRESENT A PROPOSAL BY THE TIME OF THE NEXT ROUND.

- THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESENTING A JOINT INITIATIVE ON CW TO THE CCD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

- IT WAS TENTATIVELY AGREED TO HOLD THE NEXT ROUND OF CW CONSULTATION IN EARLY JULY.

- AS WE HAVE ASSURED OUR ALLIES PREVIOUSLY, WE INTEND TO CONSULT THEM FULLY BEFORE PRESENTING ANY CW OR RW PROPOSAL TO THE SOVIETS. END TEXT

3. TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE:

BEGIN TEXT

COMMUNIQUE

PURSUANT TO AGREEMENT REACHED IN THE COURSE OF THE TALKS DURING THE VISIT OF US SECRETARY OF STATE SYRUS VANCE TO MOSCOW IN MARCH 1977, BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON SOME QUESTIONS OF ARMS LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT WERE HELD IN GENEVA FROM 9 THROUGH 13 MAY BETWEEN DELEGATIONS OF THE USA AND THE USSR.

IN THE COURSE OF THE CONSULTATIONS QUESTIONS OF THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF NEW TYPES AND NEW SYSTEMS OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WERE CONSIDERED. IN PARTICULAR THE QUESTION OF THE PROHIBITION OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS WAS EXAMINED. THE SIDES DISCUSSED CERTAIN ASPECTS AND IDENTIFIED AREAS OF AGREEMENT ON QUESTIONS UNDER DISCUSSION.

THE SIDES CONTINUED THE CONSIDERATION OF QUESTIONS RELATED TO A POSSIBLE JOINT INITIATIVE IN THE CCD WITH  
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RESPECT TO THE CONCLUSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION DEALING WITH THE MOST DANGEROUS, LETHAL MEANS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD COMPLETE AND EFFECTIVE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS ISSUE WERE HELD ON THE BASIS OF THE SUMMIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE USA AND THE USSR OF JULY 3, 1974, AND WERE A CONTINUATION OF THE US-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS ON LETHAL AND OTHER HIGHLY TOXIC MEANS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE CONDUCTED IN GENEVA IN AUGUST 1976 AND IN APRIL 1977. THE DISCUSSION OF THESE MATTERS PROVIDED A USEFUL BASIS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE WORK WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING THE TEXT OF AN APPROPRIATE DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD BE A PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT INITIATIVE.

THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO MEET IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO CONTINUE CONSIDERATION OF ALL THE MATTERS WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION. END TEXT

4. FOR PARIS: AS REQUESTED RDFTEL A, PLEASE PROVIDE BRIEFING ON SUBJECT CONSULTATION TO MFA OFFICIAL MISTRAL (PACTS AND DISARMAMENT), AND PROVIDE COMMUNIQUE ON TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 17.  
SORENSEN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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